

## **Foreman's Report December 8, 2012 thru January 5, 2013**

In between vacation time being used by all crew members we have stayed pretty busy keeping the roads in good winter driving condition, as well as the airport.

I am making preparations to have a back operation, and at this time do not have a date set, but may have by meeting time. I anticipate this happening in mid to late January, and I will be indisposed for at least a month.

### **Rice Street Extension**

After the TB interest in knowing the status of Rice Street construction plans I started digging into my plan folder and found I only had plans to the 50% level, which lead to phone calls with Bill Zimmer (DOT) and Jeff Melville (consultant manager representative) and determined we would not have final plans until the Environmental Assessment was completed. Even then the plans would not be adequate for a State let project. With this information it even seems more unfair we are still being held accountable to build this road without the earmark funds in lieu of the fact we couldn't have even built it if we wanted. In further discussion with Emmer to look into whether or not the County could help with Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding, we discussed the idea of looking for project forgiveness further up the ladder, as in our elected representatives...something Pete and I had already touched on. Emmer laughed when I asked about STP funding, as apparently the County is already beholden to the STP pot of funding due to using their allotment for many years to come on the County H rehabilitation project of 2009. Bill Zimmer said we had at most another month to get the new SMA signed and submitted, but I feel we should not sign this SMA and seriously pursue intervention with Sen. Bob Jauch for starters, in order to be relieved of any commitment and fund paybacks to the Rice Street Extension project. (Emmer offered to ask)

### **Big Bay Town Park**

The Town crew assisted Brown Plumbing with the holding tank installations for the comfort station and new small bathroom including cleanup.

I received a call from Ashland County Forester, Chris Hoffman, and the Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee has granted us \$4000 for the ravine bridge.

The construction of the comfort station is finally taking off, with the building now enclosed and a temporary heating system, the interior block walls are going up.

Respectfully Submitted

Keith Sowl  
Town Foreman  
Town of La Pointe